



Management Leadership Services (MLS) & Question A Employees

Performance Management – Performance Evaluation and Planning (PEP)

Montgomery County Government
Office of Human Resources
Executive Office Building, 7th Floor
Rockville, MD 20850

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT/PAY FOR PERFORMANCE CHECK LIST

Perf	formance Evaluation Recommendations for Fiscal Year 2011:	
>	YearEnd - Employee Self Review: Employee to do self-review by	May 16, 2011
>	YearEnd Rate & Review: Supervisor to develop performance evaluations and assign a rating by	May 30, 2011
>	YearEnd - Discussion and Supervisor Approval:	, , , ,
	 Supervisor to discuss performance plan with employee and to approve the plan by 	June 13, 2011
	o Supervisor to send the plan to the Reviewing Officer, if applicable, by	
	 Reviewing Officer to review the performance plan and return it to the 	June 20, 2011 June 27, 2010
*	Signature:	
		June 27 – July 22,
	 Supervisor completes performance evaluations and overall ratings by 	2011
	o Supervisor to record overall ratings in Oracle by	June 30, 2010
	Note: Employees leaving County service on or before July 1, 2011 should create a more expedited timeframe.	July 29, 2011
	*Approval authority is delegated to the Office Directors in the Legislative Branch. **Oracle is an online human resources information technology application that includes a performance management module.	
	formance Planning & Evaluation Recommendations for all Year 2012:	Critical Dates
>	For FY12 , Word Performance Planning and Evaluation (PPE) forms, which are located in the HR Resource Library, will be used for General Salary Schedule (GSS) employees; Management Leadership Services (MLS) employees; and Non-Merit, Non Department Head (Question A) employees.	July 1, 2011
	Make sure that you have FY2012 PPE for all your direct reports. Add existing performance expectations or add new performance expectations. Remove the competencies that are not applicable. Add Career Development.	
	Ensure that performance expectations: Performance Targets describe what's expected to achieve a rating of "successful performance."	
	Note: Performance Evaluation/Appraisal-further instructions will be communicated in spring 2012 for the end of the year evaluation/appraisal process including uploading documents into Oracle.	
	NOTE TIL D. C	



Both employee and supervisor need to formally acknowledge the performance plan

NOTE: Be sure to save these Performance Plans to a secure location that is

NOTE: The Performance Management process for MCGEO, FOP and IAFF represented employees will remain the same as in previous years. PPEs for these groups

October 31, 2011

Provide on-going observation/monitoring and documentation with feedback throughout fiscal year.

are also located in the HR Resource Library.

inaccessible by anyone else.

October 2011 -June 2012

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MLS and Question A Performance Management

Management Leadership Service (MLS) and Question A employees performance based pay is the conclusion of a performance management process that has occurred throughout the fiscal year using good performance management practices. This standardized process - PEP or Planning for Excellence in Performance - ensures a high level of consistency for all MLS and Question A employees. The information contained in this booklet will assist managers in making the most of this process. Technical requirements are covered in Section 11, Performance Planning and Evaluation, Montgomery County Personnel Regulations.

All MLS and Question A employees are required to use the Word Performance Planning and Evaluation (PPE) forms (located in the HR Resource Library) to develop performance plans and later upload those plans in Oracle. Oracle is an online human resources information technology application that includes performance management, compensation, and classification modules. The point at which Oracle is used to upload a performance plan is based on an employee's review period.

Overview

Performance management is often treated as a single administrative event rather than a continuous process of improvement. Fundamentally, the performance management process is a continuous cycle, comprised of: planning, observation, documentation, feedback, and evaluation. Performance management is an interactive process wherein MLS and Question A employees are expected to actively participate in their personal performance management activities, which may include developing performance expectations, maintaining and providing work samples, and providing a record of accomplishments.

Planning

The performance management process begins with planning. Planning refers to the process of establishing a performance plan which includes establishing clear performance expectations and career development goals for the given review period. All MLS and Question A performance plans are based on a performance review period linked to the Fiscal Year. The planning process should be a two-way dialogue between the MLS and Question A employee and his or her supervising manager. MLS and Question A performance plans consist of mandatory goals, position specific performance goals and targets, competencies, and one or more career development goals. The combination of expectations establishes **how** results are to be achieved, as well as **what** results are desired. All performance plans should be clearly aligned with the County and department vision, mission and strategic plan, which support the "**why**" of performance. At a minimum, performance expectations describe performance at the Successful level.

Observation, Documentation, and Feedback

Observation and documentation refers to making note of observable behaviors/results that indicate whether an employee's performance is on track. Feedback refers to the ongoing communication between a supervisor and employee regarding the employee's observed performance or behaviors. The result of providing effective feedback is a clear

understanding of an employee's progress toward, or challenges in, meeting established goals.

Where there are significant shifts in departmental and or team objectives, performance plans should be updated to reflect current expectations and initiatives.

Evaluation

Evaluation refers to the formal review and written assessment of an employee's performance in relation to the performance plan. The assessment should be discussed with an employee, and should outline the employee's performance on each performance expectation and/or development goal, as well as provide an overall performance rating. Ideally, this formal evaluation should contain no surprises. It should simply summarize previous feedback given throughout the reviewing period.

Substance of a Performance Plan

Mandatory Performance Expectations

Each manager is accountable for three mandatory performance expectations: 1) compliance with the County's EEO and anti-discrimination policies; and 2) conducting performance planning and evaluation with their subordinate staff; and 3) Safe Work Environment. During performance planning and evaluation, managers should discuss the opportunities and challenges they face in addressing each of these goals.

EEO

Managers' responsibilities in relation to equal employment opportunity extend beyond hiring/promotional decisions. Managers are also responsible for: providing training to employees on EEO policies, promoting a workplace free of harassment and discrimination through appropriate supervision and management, and responding to employees' complaints of harassment/discrimination. A manager's rating in this area should reflect the level of commitment and thoroughness with which they comply with these responsibilities.

Performance Management

Each manager is responsible for performance planning and evaluation with the staff they supervise. Their rating in this arena should be based on the extent to which they:

- Comply with established procedures and guidelines
- Set effective goals and expectations
- Provide supervision and guidance
- Manage performance related problems
- Assess progress toward achieving satisfactory performance

Consideration should also be given to the consistency and the accuracy of applying performance management concepts among their team(s).

Safe Work Environment

Managers and supervisors are accountable for how they exercise their authority and responsibility to maintain a safe work environment. A safe work environment involves taking actions to ensure that employees and citizens are relatively free from safety hazards by proactively identifying and addressing safety issues and concerns. This includes risks arising in the physical environment; arrangement of the work site, equipment and work processes; compliance with Maryland Occupational Safety and Health (MOSH) and applicable regulations and procedures; and, taking appropriate steps to avoid or correct violations of safety procedures and regulations.

Performance Expectations with Targets

Performance Expectations with targets describe the quality and quantity of performance at the successful level in reasonably objective terms. Goals should be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and track-able (SMART). This goal format outlines the desired results and outcomes expected-the "what" of performance.

Competencies

Competencies blend the knowledge, skills, and behaviors demonstrated by the successful employee. They emphasize the "how" in performance. All MLS and Question A performance plans must include the competencies listed on the MLS and Question A forms. Also see Attachment 1, MLS PEP Form.

Career Development Goals

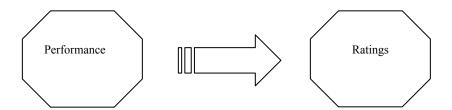
Employee development is a responsibility shared by the employee, supervisor, and the County. The Question A and MLS employee should assume the primarily responsibility or his or her own development. The Question A and MLS supervisor should provide feedback and support necessary to facilitate attainment of the career development goals and the Question A and MLS development. The County will continue to provide a learning environment and systems to support the development process.

Each performance plan should outline career/professional development goals for the upcoming fiscal year. Goals may include skill development and experiential learning designed to prepare for promotional opportunities or to enhance and enrich current responsibilities.

Employees who are classified Question A (Non-Merit, Non-Department Director) should complete a paper Performance Planning and Evaluation form (which is located in the HR Resource Library) and upload an electronic version of the Performance Planning and Evaluation form in Oracle.

Question A employees should follow the Performance Planning and Evaluation Checklist on page 11 of this publication and abide by the same deadlines for submission of PPE's as MLS.

Making Rating Recommendations



Rating Performance

Selecting an overall performance rating that accurately reflects the demonstrated performance in job specific expectations/goals and competency areas will help to ensure the equity and efficacy of performance accountability within the County. It will also provide Question A and MLS employees with an accurate picture of their performance, and helps to identify areas for continued skill development.

The definitions of each rating category as contained in Section 11, Performance Planning and Evaluation of the Montgomery County Personnel Regulations, are listed in Table 1, Performance Rating Definitions. Use these definitions for determining the rating of each separate goal, competency, <u>and</u> the overall rating.

Rating Performance Goals with Targets

Prior to rating performance goals, managers rating Question A and MLS employees should review work samples, notes, feedback from all available sources, information provided by the Question A and MLS employees, and the rating category descriptions. The next step is to compare available information with the performance target established in the plan and provide an appropriate rating.

Rating Competencies

Employees should be rated on how frequently and successfully they demonstrate the behaviors associated with the competency performance standard. Managers should review notes, feedback from multiple sources, and documentation collected over the entire course of the review period to avoid regency bias or giving undue weight to an isolated event. Applying the Rating Categories to Competencies*

		▼		
Does not Meet Expectations	Below Expectations	Successful	Highly Successful	Exceptional
Rarely demonstrates behaviors consistent with this competency. Performance of this competency frequently results in inadequate or unintended outcomes.	Demonstrates some behaviors consistent with this competency but needs improvement in other job required competencies. Performance of this competency results in inconsistent outcomes.	Usually demonstrates most of the behaviors consistent with this competency. Performance of this competency usually results in positive outcomes. Represents a "typical" employee.	Always demonstrates the behaviors associated with this competency. Performance frequently results in very positive outcomes. Occasionally serves as a coach to others for this competency.	Consistently goes beyond the behaviors associated with this competency. Performance overwhelmingly results in outstanding outcomes. Routinely serves as a "role model" and contributes to other's success. Is often sought out by others for their skill and abilities.

^{*}See Table 1, Performance Rating Definitions, for complete definitions.

Career Development Goals

As part of the performance evaluation, note the MLS employee's progress toward achievement of these goals. Career Development goals may not be rated.

Comments

Comments on performance expectations, performance targets, competencies, and career development goals are strongly encouraged. Comments can be focused on a specific goal or expectation or can be more general in nature. Including comments as part of a performance evaluation offers an opportunity to more fully explain observations, insights and/or concerns relative to a specific element or expectation of performance.

Overall Rating

Prior to determining the overall rating, re-read the rating category descriptions and look at the distribution of ratings for the individual elements. Also review the list of potential rating errors (Table 4, Common Rating Errors) which lists a variety of bias factors which may impact objectivity. The overall rating should reflect the employee's performance and be consistent with the ratings on individual elements.

Employee Comments

Question A and MLS staff must be given an opportunity to add or attach comments. While no time limit is specified for providing comments, 7- 15 days is reasonable. An employee's request for re-consideration of an evaluation must be submitted within 15 calendar days after it is finalized with Question A or MLS supervisor and Reviewing Official signatures.

Reviewing Official

Prior to meeting with the employee, a manager should forward the draft of the evaluation document to the Reviewing Official—usually the next higher level of management or department head. The role of the Reviewing Official is to review for procedural compliance and seek to resolve disagreements between the employee and immediate supervisor. The Reviewing Official may not change any rating, but should discuss concerns with the rating supervisor while the document is in draft form prior to employee review. No modifications may be made to the form or attachments after the employee has signed the form unless the employee is notified and given an opportunity to comment. (This step is not applicable where the rater or Reviewing Official is the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO).

Reviewing Officials play an important role in promoting rating consistency and fairness across the organizational unit. In addition to reviewing ratings across supervisors for consistent application of the rating categories, they can conduct discussions with their management team to develop consensus understanding of each rating level. OHR recommends that Reviewing Officials use a technique called calibration. Calibration involves comparing ratings across employees in the department or agency. A checklist has been provided on page 13 to facilitate this process.

Administrative Requirements

Once an evaluation is completed and necessary electronic signatures have been obtained copies will be in each person's completed documents folder and will be sent electronically by OHR for imaging. To facilitate compliance with Section 11 of the personnel regulations, a Compliance Checklist has been included for your convenience.

Continuous Improvement

Overall effectiveness of PEP is enhanced when managers practice good performance management practices. A *Performance Management Guide for Supervisors* is posted on the HR Resource Library (http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/ohr/ResourceLibrary), and provides an overview of the entire performance management cycle.

A variety of training classes and opportunities are also available to Question A and MLS employees, who should also participate in all of the following mandatory classes:

- Planning for Excellence: Performance Management Basics
- EEO/Diversity Management
- Maintaining a Safe Work Environment
- Leadership Institute
- Oracle Training

Additional resources and class schedules are posted on the HR Resource Library or can be obtained by calling 240.777.5122.

TABLE 1, PERFORMANCE RATINGS DEFINITIONS

Section 11, Performance Planning and Evaluation, Montgomery County Personnel Regulations

Rating Label	Definition
Exceptional Performance Section 11-7i(1)A-C	This rating indicates that the employee: consistently achieved additional, significant results beyond established targets; achieved a higher level of quality than required; was a role model in the demonstration of competencies; and was rated "Exceptional Performance" on the majority of performance expectations and standards. Performance at this level is clearly unique and rarely attained. A supervisor must use this rating only if the employee performed at a higher level relative to most other employees performing comparable work. A supervisor must not give an overall rating of "Exceptional Performance" to an employee who received a rating of "Does Not Meet Expectations" on any single expectation.
Highly Successful Section 11-7i(2)A-B	This overall rating category indicates that the employee: achieved all critical results at or beyond established targets, achieved a high level of quality, consistently and effectively demonstrated the competencies, and was rated as having "Highly Successful Performance" on the majority of performance expectations and standards. A supervisor must not give an overall rating of "Highly Successful" to an employee who received a rating of "Does Not Meet Expectations" on any single expectation.
Successful Section 11-7i(3)A-B	This overall rating category indicates that the employee: met the majority of performance standards and expectations; achieved a majority of results and demonstrated most competencies successfully; and may occasionally exceed expectations. A Supervisor must give an overall rating of "Successful Performance" to an employee with good solid performance. This rating is appropriate for most employees.
Below Expectations Section 11-7i(4)A-D	This overall rating category indicates that the employee has met some job requirements but needs improvement in other job requirements listed in the performance plan. The performance of an employee who receives this rating is below the level of "Successful Performance: but above that of "Does Not Meet Expectations." An employee who receives a rating of "Below Expectations" may request that the supervisor provide the employee with a written work improvement plan.
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Does Not Meet Expectations Section 11-7i(5)A-C	This overall rating category indicates that the employee has not met the basic requirements of the job as evidenced by: receiving a rating of "Does Not Meet Expectations" on a majority of the performance expectations and standards listed in the performance plan; or failing to produce one or more key results, demonstrating competencies infrequently or ineffectively, or both. An employee who receives this rating has failed to perform the assigned duties on an on-going basis in an acceptable and competent manner. If the supervisor gives an employee this rating, the supervisor must counsel the employee on what corrective action to take, and allow the employee adequate time to improve or correct performance.

TABLE 2, Common Rating Errors

Awareness of possible bias factors improves objectivity. Commonly reported rating errors are listed below.

1. Errors related to employee characteristics:

- **Stereotyping errors:** allowing the employee's personal views, personality, appearance, race, religion, age, handicap, sex, marital status, pregnancy, parenthood or any other non-merit factor to influence the rating.
- **High potential effect**: translating an employee's abilities or attitudes that are not related to his/her present job into a higher or lower evaluation rating than actual performance justifies.
- **Mentor effect:** overestimating the quality of performance of employees who were trained by the supervisor, and underestimating the performance of those who were not.
- **Maverick effect:** giving a lower rating because the individual is a nonconformist or frequently disagrees with the supervisor.
- **Guilt by association error**: giving a lower or higher rating because the employee associates with a particular group or works with others with less satisfactory performance.
- **Compatibility effect**: rating an employee higher because of similar age, background, education, attitude, etc.
- **No news is good news error**: rating an employee higher just because no one has complained about him or her (recently).

2. Errors related to supervisor characteristics:

- **Blind spot error**: ignoring a particular deficiency because it mirrors a weakness of the supervisor.
- **Self-comparison error**: rating an employee who holds the supervisor's previous job lower because he or she does the job differently.
- **No conflict error**: giving a high rating because of reluctance to provide frank and honest performance feedback or to avoid follow through with appropriate personnel actions.
- **Appearance worry**: giving high ratings because of a desire to "look good" or avoid looking like a bad supervisor.
- **Unrealistic expectations:** Rating employee against personal standards and not requirements of the job.

3. Errors in the assignment of rating categories:

- **Leniency/stringency effect**: giving an extreme rating to all performance guidelines because of failure to differentiate levels of performance for each performance guideline.
- **Central tendency error**: rating all individuals in the middle of the scale. It adversely affects the particularly good performers while being overly generous to the poor performers.
- **Situational error**: over or under-compensating for extenuating circumstances.
- "Company policy" effect: allowing perceived pressure from higher management to control rating distributions.
- Recency effect: allowing a recent incident to unduly influence ratings.
- "Not my job" error: holding the employee accountable in the ratings for results beyond his or her control.
- Halo effect: rating an employee excellent on one quality, which in turn influences other ratings.
- **Inadequate information:** performance guidelines too general, did not accurately reflect the successful level of performance, or did not accurately fit the responsibilities. Error may also include inaccurate or insufficient information and/or documentation.
- Assumption errors: confusing facts with inferences and making erroneous assumptions.

CALIBRATION CHECK LIST FOR REVIEWING OFFICIALS

The role of a Reviewing Official is to review the draft written performance evaluation before the supervisor shares it with the employee. Reviewing Officials cannot change the rating. Any concerns should be addressed in discussions with the immediate supervisor during this step. Reviewing Officials should ensure that:

- Each individual overall rating is consistent with the ratings for individual elements of the plan as well as the rating justification descriptions.
- Overall ratings are consistent with the measures being used across the department or agency.
- The supervisor has complied with the Personnel Regulations and any department procedures.

OHR recommends that Reviewing Officials use a technique called calibration to ensure managers and supervisors are applying measures consistently, and in a fair and equitable manner across the organizational unit. Calibration involves comparing ratings across employees in the department or agency. The checklist below will assist you in using the calibration technique effectively.

1.	Identify the measure being used by asking the following questions:
	 □ Is the measurement clear and focused to avoid misinterpretation? □ Can the measure be quantified and compared to other data? □ Is the measure achievable, reasonable, and credible under conditions expected? □ Does the measure fit into the organization's constraints? Is it cost-effective? □ Is the measurement do-able within the time frame given?
2.	Use the quality, alignment, and reality tests to find out if the measurement is being evaluated consistently across the department or agency:
	The Quality Test ☐ Were there objective measures for the specific expectation or competencies? ☐ Does the measurement include a clear statement of the end results expected? ☐ Are the measures challenging, but at the same time, attainable? ☐ Have those whose performance is being measured had the opportunity to be fully involved in the development of the measurements? ☐ Was performance evaluated against specific expectations or behavioral indicators, which target desired level of performance? ☐ Were evaluations held at the end of the performance cycle?
	 The Alignment Test □ Do the measures align behavior and specific expectations with strategy and or mission, and focus the department or agency on its priorities? □ Do the measures identify gaps between current status and performance aspirations, thereby highlighting performance opportunities? □ Are the major programs and major components of the program covered? □ Are there comparisons of employees who are performing the same or similar work? □ Is the pay recommendation consistent with the overall rating, and is the overall rating consistent with the evaluation? □ Do all direct reports have a plan?
	The Reality Test ☐ Reviewing Officials should meet with their managers and supervisors annually in order to gain a common understanding of how performance is being measured and evaluated. Managers and supervisors should bring a sampling of PPE forms representative of the total group of employees they supervise. Discussions during the meetings should be treated as confidential.

Question A and MLS Planning for Excellence in Performance (PEP) Compliance Audit Highlights

The Office of Human Resources (OHR) conducts a compliance audit to determine the level of compliance with key requirements of the Question A and MLS performance management process. The audit looks at the level of compliance on the mandatory elements of Section 11, Performance Planning and Evaluation, Montgomery County Personnel Regulations.

In general, managers have been most successful implementing the procedure in the following areas:

- Developing individual specific performance expectations
- Obtaining signatures on performance evaluations.
- Including mandatory goals -- requirements to conduct performance planning with subordinate employees and to comply with anti-discrimination and other EEO guidelines.
- Including an overall rating which is consistent with the ratings on individual performance expectations
- Rating all performance expectations including competencies (behavioral competencies)
- Writing narrative comments in addition to ratings for all behavioral competencies

Areas requiring additional attention:

- <u>Establishing the performance plans on a timely basis</u> The policy requires performance plans to be established within 30 days of the beginning of the fiscal year or within 45 days of placement into the Management Leadership Service (MLS). PEP forms often do not include dates or signatures to indicate the establishment of the plan.
- <u>Identifying career development goals</u> Including at least one career development goal and identifying progress toward its achievement.
- Conducting and documenting progress discussions.

To assist managers in improving compliance, a Compliance Check List has been included. All managers are strongly encouraged to use this list prior to completing the evaluation.

COMPLIANCE CHECK LIST

Use the items below to ensure that all mandatory requirements have been satisfied <u>prior to sending the official copy to the Office of Human Resources.</u>

PLANNING ACTIVITIES

Plan established within the first 30 days of the new review period for existing employees
(or) was established within 45 days of new hire MLS placement (determined by signature dates)
Performance expectations describe performance at the successful level
Requirement to conduct subordinates' performance plans/evaluations is included as a performance expectation
Requirement to comply with anti-discrimination and other EEO requirements is included as a performance expectation
At least one career development goal was established
Plan establishment documented with manager and employee signatures
MID-YEAR PROGRESS DISCUSSION (optional)
 Progress discussion documented with manager and employee signatures Substantive discussion items documented Substantive changes to plan and expectations documented
EVALUATION ACTIVITIES
Overall rating indicated on cover page
All performance expectations with targets were rated (N/A may also be indicated) All competencies in were rated
Written comments by manager included
Progress toward achievement (s) on career development goal noted
Final Evaluation documented with Manager signature and date
Progress toward achievement (s) on career development goal noted Final Evaluation documented with Manager signature and date Final Evaluation documented with Employee signature and date Final Evaluation reviewed by Reviewing Official (as applicable)
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Employee included comments on the evaluation (optional)

Appendix 1. MLS PEP (Planning for Excellence in Performance) Form

For FY12, MLS employees and their supervisors use Performance Planning and Evaluation (PPE) forms for performance planning, performance monitoring, and performance evaluation. Each form is individually customized with specific performance goals with targets, competencies, and career development goals. MLS employees and their supervisors will upload completed PPE's in Oracle.

Question A PEP (Planning for Excellence in Performance) Form

For FY12, Question A employees and their supervisors use Performance Planning and Evaluation (PPE) forms to do performance planning, performance monitoring, and performance evaluation. Question A employees and their supervisors will upload completed PPE's in Oracle.

Appendix 2. TYPES of Performance Plans, WHO to create them for and WHERE to find them

A copy of the form is available at the HR Resources Library: http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/ohr/ResourceLibrary/files/Performance%20Plan%20type%20chart.doc

This form has been created to assist MLS, Question A and supervisory employees in identifying what PPE form is needed for various types of positions and where to find the form and instructions for completing it.

The following Performance Plan Form Types are listed including:

- MCGEO
- Uniformed Correctional Officer
- Deputy Sheriff
- IAFF
- FOP
- Medical Doctor
- General Salary Schedule
- Management Leadership Service
- Non-merit, non-department head (Question A)
- Fire Management
- Uniformed Corrections Management
- Police Management

WHO TO CALL?

Questions Related to:	Resource Person	Contact Info
Compensation Issues	Kavyonne (Kaye) Beckley Manager Business Operations and Performance Division	kaye.beckley@montgomerycountymd.gov 240 777 5000 240 777 5130 (fax)
	Lisa Craft Human Resources Specialist Classification and Compensation Team	lisa.craft@montgomerycountymd.gov 240-777-5075 240-777-5130 (fax)
Performance Management Training	Anita Brady Human Resources Specialist Training and Organizational Development Team	anita.brady@montgomerycountymd.gov 240 777 5066 240 777 5128 (fax)
Performance Management	Lystra Baird Human Resources Specialist Classification and Compensation Team	lystra.baird@montgomerycountymd.gov 240 777 5038 240 777 5130 (fax)